MyZuzah Moments - November 17, 2023

In October, we sent shipments of mezuzot across **14,717 miles** of the U.S.- a lower number than usual, because we are short on mezuzah klafim ourselves. It is clear that every level of life in Israel is impacted by the war, down to the shortage of Customs inspectors to clear our parcels of mezuzah klafim because so many have been called up to support the war effort. But rest assured– our intrepid team is hard at work to find more sources of the high-quality, kosher klafim that MyZuzah is known to provide to those in need.

We previously shared how MyZuzah mezuzot made their way to a number of communities across Indonesia, and because it is such a far-off and unusual country for Jews to have settled, here is a message from the community rabbi about how he ended up with a Jakartan pulpit:

I was born in Manado, North Sulawesi with a moderate moslem father (a district attorney) and a Jewish german mother from Netherland, so all my life is mostly here. I got my basic Judaism to rabbinic studies and certification from Chicago, New York, and Israeli rabbis. B'ezrat HaShem I will continue my other certificated studies and post rabbinic in Israel or UK/USA next year once I get the funds.

I live and run my business (coffee trader, business consultant and a lecturer) in Lampung, South Sumatra. I have formed this local Jewish community to help Jewish descendants to return to their roots since 2010. The number reaches 180's certified Jews scattered in 8 areas (Seram-Ambon, Maluku, Lampung, Jakarta, Manado-North Sulawesi, Timika and Jayapura Papua, with others scattered in Bali, Magelang, Central Java and Surabaya).

I come to Jakarta on a regular basis to lead shabbat and high holidays, and I have an small apartment in Jakarta. I have to travel to other areas to perform Jewish weddings and funerals. For other life cycle rites, I am assisted by a team of 12 laymen, all of whom work as volunteers in each area.

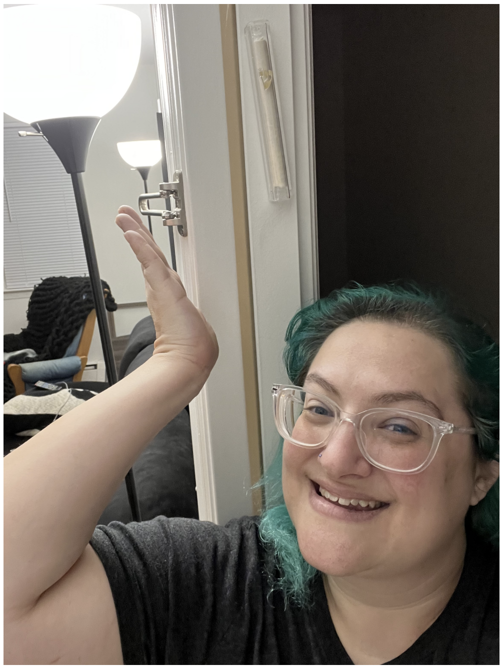
Rabbi Benjamin Meijer Verbrugge

Partner Updates:

L'dor V'dor Judaica, a project based in **Acworth, GA**, rehomed 30 mezuzah cases with new MyZuzah klafim for Jews across their area of **rural Georgia**.

Chabad of Southwest Portland, in Oregon, found some students who were very excited for their mezuzot:

Natalia Pogrebin received a mezuzah from Chabad Almaden, in **Santa Clara, CA**



Individual Stories:

I got divorced in 2022, and had to start over again. I settled down in a new area to start the healing process. Turns out a lot of that involved Judaism and my spirituality. I decided the time was right to hang a mezuzah — but had no idea where to begin! Google yielded nothing but junk. I turned to some online Jewish communities I had taken a lot of refuge in to ask. I was referred to MyZuzah, and I was so gleeful! What an awesome opportunity and organization! I got my mezuzah and had my dedication. It was a wonderful experience and I instantly felt a wonderful connection to my Jewish roots. Thank you for helping to reclaim my space. Belinda Mitchell, **Phillipsburg, NJ**